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Muscogee Nation News

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FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 14
Okmulgee, OK
74447

Volume 33, Issue 9

P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

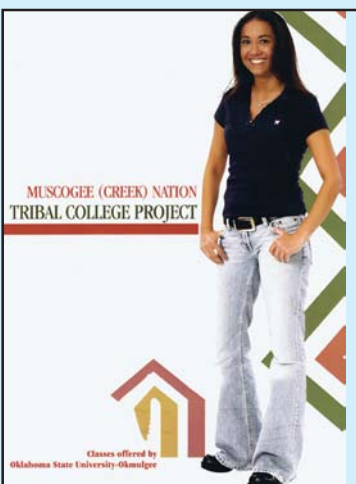
September 2004, 20 Pages

Classes begin at the newly created Tribal College

by Lucas Taylor

OKMULGEE — Classes officially began at the newly created Tribal College on the campus of OSU-Okmulgee on Sept. 1.

“We believe this is the beginning of something very special,” said Mike Flud, Division of Human Development Deputy Director. “Four of the five largest tribes in the Nation reside in eastern Oklahoma. Our institution of higher learning will be a great resource for educating and preserving our future generations and act as a model for other educational institutions to follow.”



A total of 38 students enrolled in Creek Language, Native American History, or one of the 13 general education classes offered at the Tribal College Pilot Project.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Judge Patrick Moore will be teaching the history class and Supreme Court Justice Amos McNac will teach the language class.

“By utilizing Native American instructors and offering Native American based courses, we hope to have a favorable retention rate,” said Flud. “A higher retention rate will create a stronger workforce and help rebuild a struggling economy.”

Classes were open to everyone, however, special consideration was given to tribal employees who were encouraged by Principal Chief A.D. Ellis to become more efficient at serving Creek citizens.

Enrollment for next semester will begin in late Nov. or early Dec. For more information about the Tribal College contact the Division of Human Development at (918) 732-7600 or (800) 482-1979.

Ocmulgee National Monument undergoes changes



The Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Georgia is currently undergoing changes to the Funeral Mound. Steps that lead to the top of the mound are being removed and will be replaced with new sod. “We are removing the steps that were placed here back in the 1960’s,” said Jim David, Ocmulgee National Monument Superintendent. “This mound is one of the most sacred mounds here at Ocmulgee.” According to David, there have been children and teenagers that have climbed the steps and used pieces of cardboards to slide down the mound. They had no idea of the significance of the sacred mound. David also plans on constructing a low picket fence on the outside perimeter of the Funeral Mound as a visual barrier.

The Ocmulgee Indian Celebration is scheduled to begin on Sept. 18. (See page 10 for more details)

photo by Lucas Taylor

Trade and Commerce assists the town of Dustin with water shortage

by Wilma Murphy

DUSTIN — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, and Danny Wesley, Director of Trade and Commerce, assisted the city of Dustin and its citizens with a water shortage problem due to a fire emergency.

Due to the extent of the fire, it required all of the City’s water to be used to consume the fire. Cleo Robinson, Mayor of Dustin, phoned Chief Ellis and asked for emergency assistance. Trade and Commerce employees, Eastman Whitlow and Walter Jones transported 60 cases of bottled water for the people to drink and a 250 gallon buffalo barrel of water for the people to use.

“Creek Nation was very willing to give back to their community,” said Whitlow. “The citizens of Dustin were very grateful for the Tribe’s help.”

An anonymous caller notified Barbara Crawford, town clerk, that there was a fire on 107 N. Broadway. This was where the City kept all of their equipment, such

as lawnmowers, weed eaters, meters, and air compressors. Crawford notified the Robinson and the Dustin Fire Department.

When the Dustin Fire Department seen that the fire was getting out of control, they called surroundings communities for assistance. The Wetumka, Salem and Plain View Fire Department graciously came to their rescue. The fire started around noon on Monday, Sept. 6 and the Firemen worked until midnight to put the fire out.

Robinson has estimated the damage to be approximately \$10,000 for the storage building and \$25,000 for its contents. Dustin had already had a history of water problems. Now they plan to take steps toward getting a new water pump to solve future water shortages.

County workers came in to help finish knocking down the remaining residue that was left standing. The cause of the fire is not yet determined.

Thanks to Communications Department

Editor:

Please excuse my delay in writing this letter to you about the recent Creek Nation Festival communications staff. Personally I missed the festival due to work commitments, however I did have an opportunity to review and receive posters and communications sent out by the folks on your staff.

The posters and communications were all very professional, of high quality and the content and organization excellent.

One would know that many hours of work and preparation went into ensuring this was going to be a success! The first milestone would be the communications pieces that were prepared. They were very well planned and designed. Credit for this should be given to all your staff members and especially to Ruth Bible. Please let them know we do notice your work. Best regards,

L Noon Stokes

PMPEntergy Transmission, Little Rock, AR

Creek Citizens vote in 2004

Editor:

As a Senior Creek Citizen, I wonder how many of our Creeks voted in the recent primary election? Also, how many will vote in the November 2004 election to elect the President for the next 4 years. The U.S. has many problems to face which will affect all of us, but mainly the young.

Some of the things which will impact on all of us is the huge National debt of over 6 trillion dollars; the cost of the war in Iraq which has cost \$200 billion to date, outsourcing of many jobs to India, China, Philippines, and other countries; and the possibility of reinstating the draft. There is, also, the fact the rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer.

We Creeks need to realize that our vote is important, and the Native American vote can make a difference. Sincerely yours,

Jorene Coker, Preston, OK

Citizen express appreciation

Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation to the senior citizens gift shop for giving me a couple of gifts that I will use as door prizes at my Creek Language Class at the Thurman Jr. White Forum Building at the OU Campus in Norman. I taught on August 21, 2004 and again on August 28, 2004. Mvto! Thank You

Millie Jean Colbert,

Certified Creek Teacher

Citizen requests information on clan

Editor:

I would like to receive information on the Creek Indians and the Wind Clan. I have information that my great grandmother was from this clan. It has been hard for me to find any informa-

tion in the Florida area that I live. The clan it refers to I think was from around the Florida town area, which is close to Pensacola.

If you can send any information please do so to my current home address:

Margaret McCallie
1388 Jaybird Ln.
Tallahassee, FL 32310
(850) 575-2674

If you have web sites that I might contact, this would also be helpful. I would like to be put on the National Registry when I have all of my information together. I would like to know as much as possible about this tribe of Indians.

Thank you for your help,
Margaret McCallie,
Tallahassee, FL

OHA needs employees to fill jobs

I am enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and employed by the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), Social Security Administration. The Associate Commissioner for OHA, A. Jacy Thurmond, Jr., informed me that we need to fill 200 jobs before September 30, 2004. They range from clerical to paralegal/attorney positions. I am not the contact person but you may get more information on the following website:

www.usajobs.opm.gov

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks,
Richard O. Litsey
Hearing Office Director
713-654-1090 Ext. 266

Thanks to the Caregiver Program

Editor:

My name is Patricia Coon, sometime ago I saw in the Muscogee Nation News that there was a Caregiver Program. I have been the sole caregiver for my mother. She is 80 years old now and quite ill. There is only my sister and I in the family. My younger sister is also in poor health.

My mother has to have someone with her all the time now. I'm glad I have been here for her. She has been there for

me through the years and I wanted to help her to stay in her home as long as she could.

The respite worker has helped me so much along with this caregiver program. Having someone to relieve me has helped so much. I love my mom so, but you can really feel cut off from friends and family and the time I've had for myself with someone coming in to take my place now and then. Our elder deserve our help and love to the end.

Again thank you so much. I feel like my family has been able to help me and my Creek family. Thanks truly,

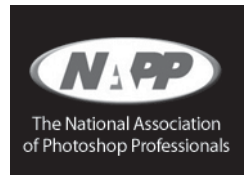
Patricia Coon, Tulsa, OK



Members of the following two associations:



Native American Journalist Association



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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

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1 Year - \$12
Send money order to:
Communications Dept.
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Office of the Principal Chief...

by R.D. Ellis

Hello again tribal citizens and friends. Many things are happening in our Nation these days. Contrary to some people's views, our progress is moving forward rapidly. Some time ago we were notified by the tribe's auditing firm that the Creek Nation is 35 million dollars richer now than it was this time last year. This is probably due to total assets.

On August 14 we conducted the first annual Church Leader's summit meeting in the Mound building. Approximately 125 people were present and communications between tribal government and leaders of church was very informative. We are on the fast tract to develop the 40 acre industrial park across from McCoy's Lumber. The City of



Okmulgee has agreed to furnish all utilities, etc. I believe **Mr. Ben Chaney** and his new transit system will be our first tenant. I keep stressing for jobs and jobs for our people and this industrial site will surely help.

Another new endeavor of this administration is to take the government to the people. I just left a meeting of the Coweta Clinic project. This week they are drilling test holes for building and street construction.

Also this week, holes are being drilled for the new Tulsa Casino project. The Endangered Species Act has a huge impact on our construction. A beetle that lives underground, a bald eagle habitat and a few more obstacles but we will keep pushing forward.

A big thanks to Trade and Commerce Authority for receiving a Best Business Award from the Oklahoma Indian Chamber of Commerce and Oklahoma Business Development, a department of Commerce entity. Good work.

Many people have asked why I don't come to the communities anymore as I did as Second Chief. I am really completely covered up with work on a national level. My meeting continuously involving state, national and tribal leaders doing what is best for our Nation as a whole. I

miss having lunch and visiting with my friends throughout the nation very much.

Also these are always rumor and stories about a new chief. I've witnessed it for 13 years but never had to endure until this year. I want to assure the creek citizens that rumors are probably started by disgruntled or jealous people who have nothing better to do. We have made many changes and will make many more in the future. Those rumors starters and relayers need prayer's if anything. I assure the Nation that I will never do anything to bring dishonor or disrespect to the office of the Principal Chief.

I will confer with many Senators and Congressman, plus NIGC chairman about gaming, IHS director about health and anything to foster better relationships for our Nation.

Looking forward to the many creek people who will be joining us at the opening of the Museum of American Indians in Washington D.C.

For now good health and good future to all people of this Nation. *Mvto.*

Quote of the month: *If you want the rainbow, you have to put up with the rain.*

Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Henks Ce Vmestylke. I recently met with a couple of ministers from Hawaii. They came to Oklahoma to visit with some of their people who are Hawaiian inmates in prison in Oklahoma. They sang some some spiritual songs of Hawaiian or Polynesian ancestry. When you think about these people, they must also have a rich heritage. Sometimes you see these people on TV in their long boats with several men with oars. We call our boats, ships, canoes, etc. piros (pith-thoes). Since we lived near the Creeks, our people should have some knowledge about canoeing. We use the word pirotvmkv to mean airplane. That word translates into fly-ing boat.

Our trade and commerce relied on the availability of waterways and shipment was made by piros. War parties were sent out by piros. When our prophets made prophecies, they told of people flying in the belly of birds, people crossing our prairies traveling inside of turtles and people traveling about in snakes. What ever became of our prophets (o-wa-lvs)? There is a saying that without vision, a nation dies. We are in the process of doing things with the Hanna Project and it seems we have done something wrong



and we have a hold on our project. Before our trade and commerce took over the farms and natural resources, these lands were being leased for around \$7 to \$8 an acre. The lessee would make a great profit and none of these monies returned back to the Tribe that amounted to several hundred thousand dollars and they were released for hunting and we received no monies in return. Now we are developing these lands and all proceeds will be made by our own organization including training and employment. But, since we as Indians are going to be doing it, we are under scrutiny, but the non-Indian lessees were free to do what they wanted and all the Tribe received was \$7 to \$8 an acre.

I hope that in the future, we can all work together and be proactive and not fight among ourselves while other Tribes around us are booming. *Mvto*

Mvskoke History Series

By Patrick E. Moore

The second Spanish expedition entered the *Mvskoke Confederacy* during 1539. Hernando de Soto, after looting the Central and South American Aztec, Mayan and Inca Nations turned his treasure seeking attention to North America. He sailed, May 18, 1539, from Havana, Cuba, landing close to what is now Tampa Bay, Florida. On the beach he discovered a fellow Spaniard, Juan Ortiz, who had been a member of an 1528 Spanish expedition, the first Spanish expedition into the southeast. Ortiz had been captured by local Native Americans, treated with courtesy, and subse-

quently released to live as he pleased. Ortiz was fluent in the local languages and De Soto ordered him to be the expedition's interpreter.

De Soto began his march inland with 600 fully armed Spanish soldiers, 220 mounted on Andalusian horses, 100 servants, including blacksmiths, and numerous slaves. The expedition also traveled with a herd of hogs, some mules and 100 specially bred man-hunting war dogs. The blacksmiths had neck chains to control several hundred slaves they hoped to capture. When local Native Americans did not cooperate with De Soto, he burned villages and executed the inhabitants. The expedition encountered strong native military resistance, as word of De Soto's brutality rapidly preceded his army.

When he moved into what is now Georgia, he encountered well organized resistance and ingenious forts that made his progress very difficult. De Soto was attacked at every river crossing and was virtually under siege by the *Mvskoke Confederacy* 24 hours a day.

He wintered in December 1539 north of the last swamp, but the relentless native assaults continued daily and his command lost one soldier a day.



please see **SERIES...**, page 19

Births

Claude Tyner Little Axe

MIAMI — Claude Tyner Little Axe was born June 3 to Troy and Claudia Little Axe.

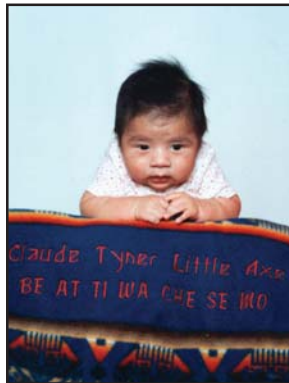
He weighed 8 lbs and 7.5 ounces and 20 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Claude and Belinda Tyner of Tulsa.

Paternal grandparents are Troy and Joanne Little Axe of Bartlesville.

Maternal great grandparents are William and Vera Tyner and Julia Harjo Byrd.

Paternal great grandparents are John and Lillian Little Axe and Joe and Agnes Kitchkommie.



Little Axe

Birthday

Tiger celebrated 11th birthday

SAPULPA — Nick Tiger celebrated his 11th birthday on April 30. He is an all around athlete and currently playing baseball for the Dodger's in Sapulpa.

He plays basketball for Preston school and football at Sapulpa.

Nick is the son of Sherry Tiger. Grandparents are Judy Bruner and Jim Fife and James and Shirley Tiger.

Tiger belongs to the Polecat ceremonial ground.



Tiger

Leete celebrates first birthday with picnic

MESQUITE, NV — Andrea Grace Leete celebrates first birthday with a picnic at the park.

Many friends and family were in attendance.

She is the daughter of Robert and Carri Leete.

Maternal grandparents are Russell and Patricia Criner of Baldhill.

Maternal great grandparents are Bozy and Nada Criner. Andrea has one older sister, Ashlynn.



Leete

Young celebrates Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron theme

OKMULGEE — Marisa Cheyenne Young turned five on June 19. She is the daughter of Michael and Julia Young.

Marisa had a surprise birthday party with a

Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron theme.

Those attending were: great aunts and uncles; Ken and Darlene Taryole and Michelle and Randy Billie all of Okmulgee.

She is the great grandchild of the late Nancy Chupco Frank and the late John L. Frank of Okemah



Young

Society

Harjo receives national banking award

TULSA — Jennifer Harjo is currently employed with Bank of Oklahoma. In May, she received the national banking award and was sent to Canada to receive the award.

Jennifer funded her own way through college earning a degree in accounting. She has three sons.

Youth travel to Indian youth police academy

BURIEN, WA — In June an essay contest was sponsored by the National Indian youth police academy, with 30 males and 30 females being accepted.

Five Muscogee (Creek) Nation youths: Natashe Watashe of Kellyville; Kayla Hurn and Cara Alexander of Okmulgee; Nathan Pickering of Sapulpa; and Derrick Riley of Dustin, were accepted and traveled to the academy for 14 days with all expenses paid by the Western Community Policing Center.

The youths participated in a series of courses designed to give them hands on experience and working knowledge of major areas of police work and other criminal justice areas. The youths learned about careers in law enforcement, gained leadership, problem solving and team building skills, while they developed friendship and increased their

self esteem.

Ben Watashe, Creek Nation Lighthorse Criminal Investigator, was called upon to serve as a senior counselor. Derrick Riley, Creek Nation Lighthorse Explorer, served as junior counselor at the academy.

After completing the courses, a graduation ceremony was conducted awarding each youth a certificate of completion.

The five youths are members of the Muscogee Creek Nation Lighthorse Explorer Organization.

Lowe graduates from basic training

SAN ANTONIO — Air Force Airman Lauren E. Lowe graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Lauren is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lowe of Tahlequah.

She is a 2001 graduate of Tahlequah high school and is now stationed at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Mississippi.

~Citizens of the Creek Nation~
GARLAND FOSTER
 LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I AM A CANDIDATE FOR STATE HOUSE DIST 16 WHO HAPPENS TO BE A CITIZEN OF THE CREEK NATION. I AM ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON NOV 2, NOT BECAUSE OF MY CITIZENSHIP, BUT BECAUSE I AM COMMITTED TO REPRESENTING YOU AND YOUR INTERESTS WITH A LOUD STRONG VOICE, WHICH IS SOMETHING CREEK NATION HAS NEVER HAD.

MY REPRESENTATION WILL BE ONE OF HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND DEDICATION. IT WILL BE AN HONOR TO REPRESENT YOU NOT A POLITICAL OPPORTUNITY.

I AM ASKING FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF YOUR SUPPORT BECAUSE OF MY COMMITMENT TO YOU AND YOUR BEST INTERESTS AND BECAUSE IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO WIN WITHOUT IT.

I DO NOT COME TO YOU, HAT IN HAND, WITH FALSE PROMISES. I CAN ONLY GIVE YOU MY WORD THAT YOU WILL HAVE ACCESS TO ME, AS YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK, VIA A PAGER NUMBER AND I WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH CHIEF ELLIS' OFFICE AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK... EVERY WEEK... TO OFFER MY ASSISTANCE. CREEK CITIZENS WILL ALSO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO ME IN PERSON AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH IN A TOWN HALL MEETING, YOU WILL HAVE ACCESS TO ME AND MY ASSISTANCE WHEN YOU NEED IT AND NOT JUST AT ELECTION TIME. THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY CREEK NATION OVER THE YEARS TO OKMULGEE COUNTY HAVE GONE UNNOTICED AND UNRECOGNIZED. CREEK NATION IS A VITAL AND MOST IMPORTANT FACTION IN OKMULGEE COUNTY AND IT IS TIME IT IS RECOGNIZED AS SUCH.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH ME PERSONALLY BETWEEN NOW AND ELECTION DAY PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT MY HOME IN MORRIS AT 918-733-1259

CREEK CITIZEN CANDIDATE HOUSE DIST 16

Muscogee Division of Health Administration

Tobacco Prevention Program to focus on Women’s Health in Indian Country

OKMULGEE — The Division of Health Administration is made up of several programs dedicated to the health care and prevention of our Creek citizens.

Tobacco Prevention focuses on women in Indian country

EUFULA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program will put a human face and a local focus on the toll tobacco takes on women in Eufaula, Oklahoma. At the Women’s Health Summit, on September 29th, 2004, Cynthia Coachman will call on the community to prevent and reduce smoking among girls and women at 9:00 a.m. located at the Northfolk Baptist Church located on Hwy 69 & Texanna, Bridgeport Access Road.



Women now account for 39% of all smoking-related deaths each year in the United States, a proportion that has more than doubled since 1965. According to Women and Smoking: A report of the Surgeon General, the consequences of tobacco use are especially devastating to pregnancy outcomes. Not only are women who smoke susceptible to fertility problems, but the impact on babies they carry can be deadly. Smoking dur-

ing pregnancy has been associated with the increased risk of spontaneous abortion, low birth weight, stillbirths and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The report also concludes that the increased likelihood of lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and reproductive health problems among female smokers makes tobacco use a serious women’s health issue.

“The millions of women who die prematurely from smoking aren’t strangers,” States Cynthia Coachman, “they are our mothers and grandmothers, our sisters and friends. Smoking cessation can save their lives.”

Increased marketing by tobacco companies has stalled progress in smoking cessation by women, and recent increases in smoking among teenage girls threaten to wipe out any progress in tobacco prevention that has been made in the last few decades. Quitting results in immediate health benefits for both light and heavy smokers, including improvements in breathing and circulation. The increased risks for coronary heart disease and stroke is substantially reduced after 1 or 2 years of not smoking.

When smokers quit, their lungs begin to heal and their risk of lung disease drops. Smoking cessation also improves quality of life and physical functioning. Science-based smoking cessation interventions are much more cost effective than many common medical interventions.

“I think it is important to emphasize that it’s never too soon or too late to quit smoking” Cynthia Coachman, MCN Tobacco Prevention Program Director.

One cigarette contains over 4,000 toxic substances, many of which are known to cause cancer in humans. Here are just a few...

- ARSENIC:** used in rat poison
- ACEICACID:** hair dye and developer
- ACETONE:** main ingredient in paint fingernail polish remover
- AMMONIA:** a typical household cleaner
- BENZENE:** rubber cement
- CADMIUM:** found in batteries and artists’ oil paint
- CARBON MONOXIDE:** poison
- FORMALDEHYDE:** used to embalm dead bodies
- HYDRAZINE:** used in jet and rocket fuels
- HYDROGEN CYANIDE:** poison in gas chambers
- NAPHALENES:** Used in explosives, mothballs, and paint pigments
- NICKEL:** used in the process of electroplating
- PHENOL:** used in disinfectants and plastics
- STYRENE:** found in insulation material
- TULUENE:** embalmers glue
- VINYL CHLORIDE:** ingredient found in garbage bags

Doctor's Note

From the office of Ms. Florence July HSA

Women’s health in general is a very broad topic to cover, but sometimes we need to turn the maternal instincts inward toward ourselves so that we can be able to take care of our families, friends and loved-ones.

To do that think of the last time you thought about what you’re eating to provide the fuel to keep on going (just like the pink bunny!) Here are some ideas: try to bake, broil or grill your foods instead of frying; eat less sugary foods and drink less pop; eat less fattening foods like french fries, chips, and deep fried foods; and be more active! Walking 30 minutes a day on most days of the week is a simple way to be more active.

Remember to keep taking care of yourself so that you can keep on taking care of others who need you!

WIC program to implement Breast-feeding Peer Counselor Program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation WIC Program has received grant funds from the United State Department of Agriculture to implement a Breast-feeding Peer Counselor Program in 2005. The program will be aimed at increasing breast-feeding initiation and duration rates among WIC mothers.

Peer counselors will be armed not only with their personal experience, but will have official training provided through the WIC Program. Peer counselors help prevent and manage common breast-feeding concerns and become a friend to mothers, offering support and encouragement. Peer counselors also form important links to health services in the community, including the WIC program, social services and referrals to health programs that can assist the family. They fill that all important gap in services that often occurs between hospital discharge and return to

WIC for certification of the infant.

Breast-feeding has been described as the gold standard of infant feeding because of the numerous health benefits infants and mothers receive. Breast-fed infants usually have fewer ear and respiratory infections, fewer allergies and a lower risk of SIDS. Benefits for mothers include a decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancer and diabetic mothers may experience a decrease in insulin requirements.

The Breast-feeding Peer Counselor Program will provide services to area WIC mothers that have never been offered in the past. This will be a great opportunity to improve breast-feeding numbers as well as creating healthier happier infants.

For more information, contact the WIC Program at (918) 758-2722.

Housing Authority to begin construction of new homes

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division will begin construction on a fifty-six unit Home Ownership project within the next few weeks. Geri Berryhill, Manager of the Development Department, who plans and develops new construction projects, said the contracts for the units have been awarded and are awaiting the Notice to Proceed . This is the next step in the contracting process.

Development presently has 10 houses under construction and has purchased 14 acquisition homes since April of this year. In addition to the 56 unit turn-key project, Development expects to purchase 13 more homes by the end of October and has 2 clients scheduled for closing and 10 pre-approved clients for the recently restarted Mortgage Assistance Program. The MAP program recently helped one client with closing costs and down payment.

For more information, contact: Housing Authority of the Creek Nation; P.O. Box 297; Okmulgee, OK 74447 or (918) 756-8504 or 1-800-259-5050.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PERSONNEL

GERI BERRYHILL
Manager

STACEY SETTLEMYRE
Development Specialist (Vacant Sites)

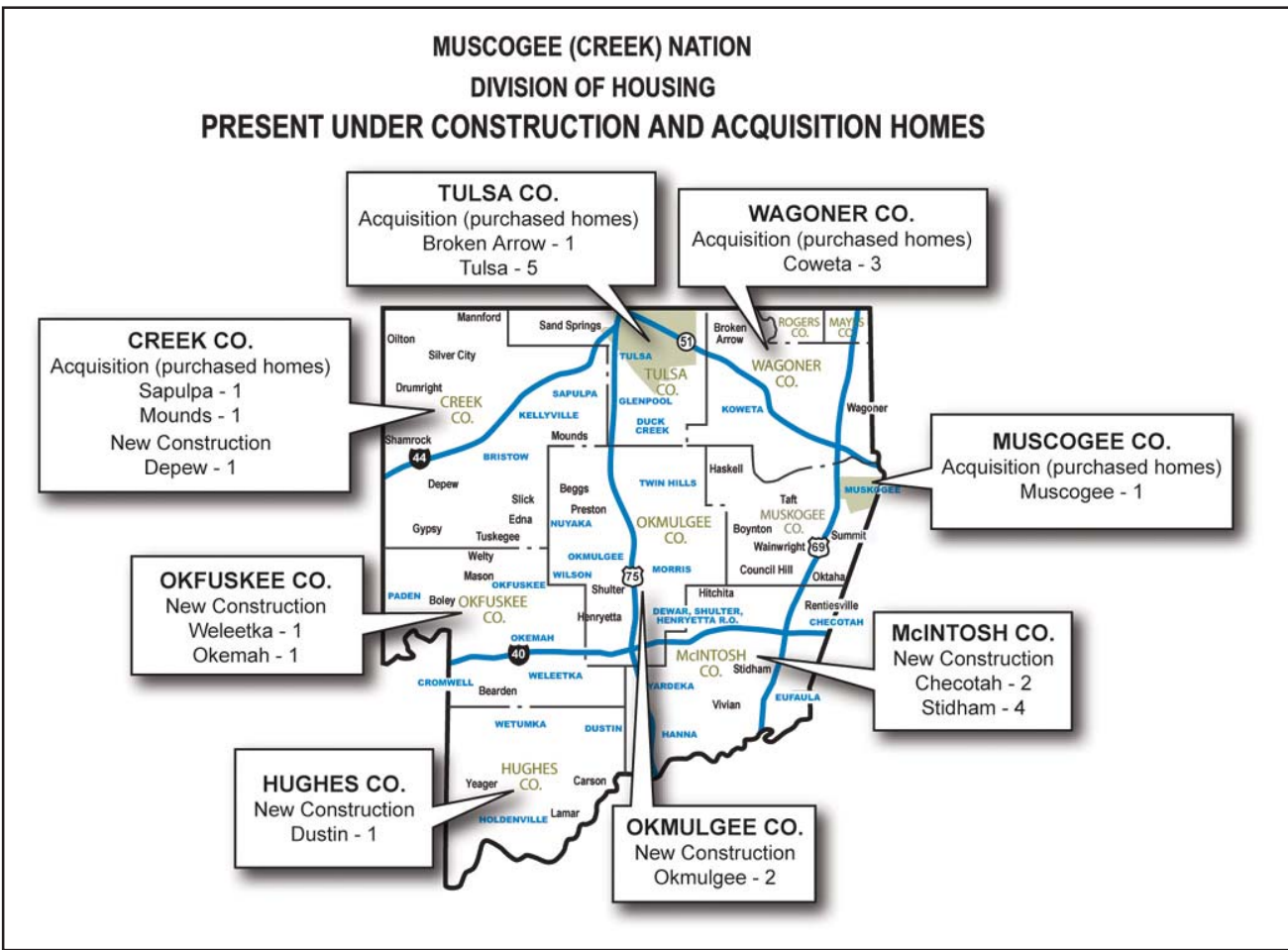
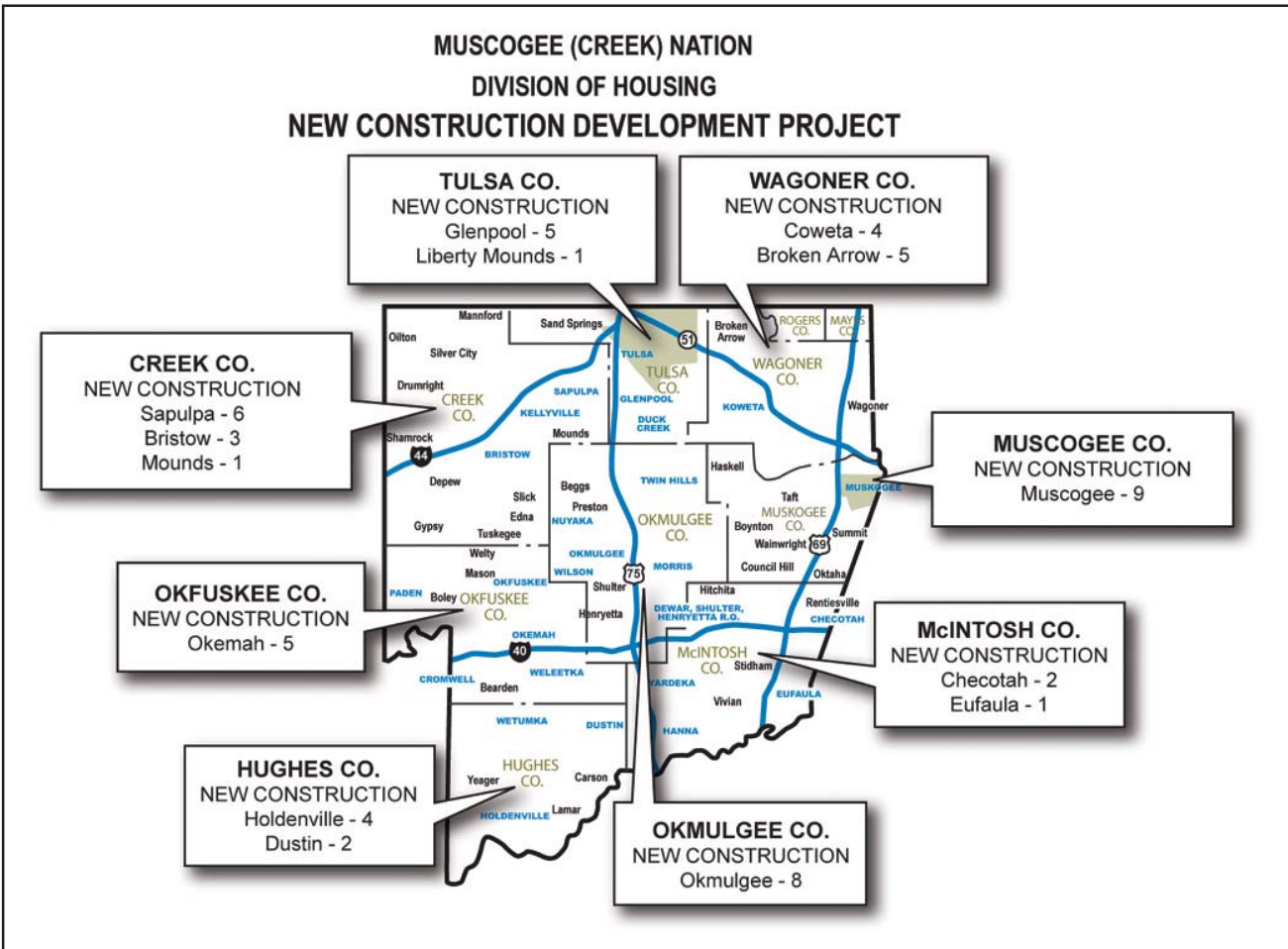
THOMASENE OSBORN
Development Specialist (Donated Sites)

IVAN PULLIAM
Acquisition Specialist

BARBARA LANE
Mortgage Assistance Program



Pictured above is one of the 10 new construction homes presently under construction by the Housing Authority. This house is located in Hughes County.



Senior Services offers diplomas for military veterans
OKMULGEE — Many veterans had to sacrifice their education to serve their country in times of war. Senior Services is now offering assistance to those interested in receiving their diploma.

Those interested must send their name, name of their school, last year in school, and the years attended to Jackson Barnett, Senior Services Manager. Information may be sent to P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447. For more information call (918) 732-7723.

Communications to offer senior portrait package

OKMULGEE — The Communications Department is offering a high school senior portrait and announcement package to tribal citizens beginning Oct. 1.

The package will include the following: 2 - 8 x 10; 2 - 5 x 7's; 8 - 3 x 5's; 27 wallets; and one, eight proof picturefolio. Extras may be purchased at \$10 per sheet.

Prices range from \$50 to \$100 based on income. Digital announcements will be offered in increments of 8 for \$6. For more information contact Mallory Bible or Wilma Murphy at (918) 732-7637.

Oklahoma Farm Service Agency program announcements

OKMULGEE — In full support of President George W. Bush's recent directive to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to sustain the environmental benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced a General CRP 29 that began August 30.

Allen Klaus, County Executive Director for Okmulgee County FSA, explains that CRP Sign-up 29 is offered for those acres currently enrolled in CRP and set to expire September 30 2004 or 2005. According to Klaus, eligible crop land never before enrolled in CRP will also be considered for enrollment under General CRP Sign-up 29.

"As further expansion to the CRP program, President Bush has announced a couple of new initiatives including a Bobwhite quail initiative and an expanded wetland program designed to enhance wetlands and play lake areas," said Klaus. "Provisions and eligibility guidelines for these and other new CRP components will be forthcoming as USDA works through the development process."

In light of the projected 16 million acres of CRP set to expire in 2007 and an additional 6 million acres to expire in 2008, President Bush addressed his vision for the future of the CRP program - the nation's largest, voluntary conservation program offered for private lands. In a continued effort to restore, enhance, and protect environmentally sensitive land, build on producer stewardship and enhance wetland and wildlife acres, the President expressed his commitment to reenrolling as many CRP acres as possible up to a maximum of 39.2 million acres nationwide.

"Producers and landowners need to understand that CRP Sign-up 29 is completely separate from potential re-enrollment of acres expiring in 2007 or 2008," said Klaus. "No provisions for these acres will be made until the 120-day public comment period has ended."

Individuals interested in making public comment pertaining to managing the large number of acres set to expire in

3 - 4 years, managing the future CRP sign-ups, evaluating the program's environmental effectiveness or other related topics of concern can weigh-in on FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

For more information on the CRP Sign-up 29 or public comment on the future of CRP, contact the Okmulgee County FSA office at 719 E 8th Street, Suite D, or visit the USDA website at www.usda.gov or may call 756-0850.

Foster parents association requests assistance

HASKELL — The Haskell County Foster Parents Association requests assistance both in the form of people willing to be foster parents and monetarily.

Monies donated to the association are used for various purposes, including purchasing clothes for children taken into foster care, school supplies, and for Christmas presents and a Christmas dinner for all the children.

Those interested in helping out or for more information, please contact: Haskell County Foster Parents Association, 20654 N. CR 4500, Stigler, OK 74462 or call at (918) 967-4332.

National Council creates reintegration department

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council approved a law creating a reintegration department. The purpose of this department is to provide vital services to the citizens of Muscogee (Creek) Nation that are incarcerated or released from an instate penal or juvenile institution and provide protection to society through the control and rehabilitation of these individuals.

The Department will provide a large number of important services. Prior to release, they will assist with diagnosis and counseling, program information and parole hearings, family counseling and visitation, education and supervision seminars, community resource de-

velopment, and release status report. After release the services offered will include employment, referrals to community resources, referrals for housing, and various preventative activities.

This department will create four new jobs: coordinator; case manager for females; case manager for males; and a secretary. This act was signed by the Principal Chief A. D. Ellis on September 1 and went into effect immediately.

For more information, contact Dr. Elise Berryhill Taylor at (918) 758-1910.

Reunions

Francis Reunion

EUFAULA — The Francis reunion will be held at Artussee Indian Church Sept. 25. Those attending are requested to bring a covered dish. The church is located four miles west on Hwy. 9 from Eufaula, then two miles south. For more information, contact Anna King at (918) 437-5953.

Little Springs 40th Anniversary Reunion

OKLAHOMA CITY — Little Springs Church is having their 40th Anniversary Reunion Sept. 25. All former members are welcome to attend and are asked to bring old pictures and a covered dish. For more information, contact Leona Brooks at (405) 379-7264 or Chicken (Delores) Factor at (405) 677-2925.

Haskell Reunion

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Haskell Indian Nations Alumni Association of Oklahoma invites all Haskell Alumni and friends to the annual reunion at the Biltmore Hotel located at I-40 and Meridian.

For more information, contact Leon Yahola at (918) 616-3757 or Kenneth Scott at (918) 628-0969. Golfers contact Simon Mitchell at (405) 672-7923.

Honor Guard to participate in Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian grand opening ceremony

WASHINGTON D.C. — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian will celebrate its Grand Opening on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

The Creek Nation Honor Guard, along with Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, National Council representatives, Creek Nation Royalty, and Muscogee elderly, will be participating in the grand opening ceremonies by carrying in the United States, Oklahoma, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and P.O.W. flags during the procession. The Muscogee attendees will be meeting in front of the National Museum of American History on Tuesday at 7:20 a.m.



August District Court filings

Civil Actions:

- Robert Strong v. Barbara West
- Star Loans v. Russell Jacobs

Protective Orders:

- Doretha James v. Sylvester Watashe, Sr.
- Jeremy Barnett v. Troy Turnham
- Nancy Davis v. Randall Billy
- Rickey Perez v. Tammy Perez Pittman
- Minniffee Wilson v. Richard Williamson, Jr.
- Elizabeth Beamis v. Gilbert Beamis
- Jentry Pye v. Shawn Pye
- Patricia Shepherd v. Justin Shepherd

Criminal - Felony:

- MCN v. Elizabeth Pickering
ct.1 Aggravated Battery
- MCN v. Kenneth Doty
ct. 1 Cheating by Check

Criminal - Misdemeanor

- MCN v Alexis Perez
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct

Traffic:

- MCN v. Danielle Haynes
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Danielle Haynes
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Derrick Bowen
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Buel Dean Hamilton
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Allen James Whitson
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Candis Henslee
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Omar Hawkins
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct

Divorce:

- David Birdcreek v. Cynthia Birdcreek
- Rebecca McAfee v. Matthew McAfee
- Nancy Davis v. Randall Billy
- Elizabeth Beamis v. Gilbert Beamis
- Nedra Adams v. Ryan Adams
- Jamie Frazier v. Eugene Barnes
- Jentry Pye v. Shawn Pye

Legal Notices

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CV 2004-12
In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff
vs. Terro Winn, Defendant

DEFERRED JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

Now on this 27th day of May, 2004 the same being a judicial day of said Court, and the time appointed for judgment and sentence in the above entitled cause, the defendant, **TERRO WINN**, appears pro se and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being represented by Assistant Prosecutor Shannon L. Prescott;

The Defendant having been legally charged by Criminal Complaint and Information filed in this case with a Criminal offense and having been dully arraigned thereon; the said defendant personally entered a plea of guilty to the crime of **COUNT ONE: Public Intoxication (MCNCA Title 14 § 2-707)** as charged in said Information.

The Court, without entering a finding of guilt **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** a deferred sentencing of **Nine (9) months** in the custody of the Lighthorse Police.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant adhere to the Rules and Conditions of Probation, Incorporated now herein by this reference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant is to pay costs and fines associated with this matter and in accordance with the attached Exhibit A. Failure to make a payment as scheduled is a violation of the Rules and Conditions of Probation and grounds for the acceleration of this sentence.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event of a violation of the terms and conditions of the deferred sentence, that this order of deferred sentence be immediately accelerated and that judgment of guilt be entered on the defendant’s plea of guilty, and that sentence be imposed as provided by law.

/s/ Patrick Moore, District Court Judge

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CV 2003-20
In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, CHARLES COOKER, an individual and ALICE FREEMAN, an individual, Plaintiffs vs. ESTER HARLEY GRONA, an individual, Defendant

JUDGMENT

The above-captioned matter came before this Court for Jury trial on June 7, 2004. Present were Plaintiffs Alice Freeman and Charles Cooker, their attorney William P. Tunell, Jr., and Defendant Ester Harley Grona, acting pro se. The jury was empaneled and sworn, heard the evidence, the charges of the Court, and the argument of counsel, and returned its verdict in favor of Plaintiff Alice Freeman in the amount of \$1,000 (\$500 being assessed as special damages and \$500 being assessed as punitive damages).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THE Plaintiff Alice Freeman has recovered judgment of and from Defendant Ester Harley Grona for the Sum of \$1,000.00 for all of which let execution issue.

DATED this 10th day of June, 2004
/s/ Patrick E. Moore, Presiding Judge

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CRF 2003-26
In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff vs. GIBBS: Dewayne, Defendant

DEFERRED JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

Now on this 30th day of June, 2004 the same being a judicial day of said Court, and the time appointed for judgment and sentence in the above entitled cause, the defendant, **Dewayne Gibbs**, appears with his counsel, Cynthia Pickering and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being represented by Assistant Prosecutor Shannon L. Prescott;

The Defendant having been legally charged by Criminal Complaint and Information filed in this case with a Criminal offense and having been dully arraigned thereon; the said defendant personally entered a plea of guilty to the crime of **COUNT ONE: Embezzlement, Theft and False Accounts** and **COUNT TWO: Embezzlement, Theft and False Accounts** as charged in said Information.

The Court, without entering a finding of guilt **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** a deferred sentencing of **Three (3) months** until the 30th day of September, 2004.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant adhere to the Rules and Conditions of Probation, Incorporated now herein by this reference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant is to pay costs and fines associated with this matter and in accordance with the attached Exhibit A. Failure to make a payment as scheduled is a violation of the Rules and Conditions of Probation and grounds for the acceleration of this sentence.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event of a violation of the terms and conditions of the deferred sentence, that this order of deferred sentence be immediately accelerated and that judgment of guilt be entered on the defendant’s plea of guilty, and that sentence be imposed as provided by law.

/s/ Patrick Moore, District Court Judge

Nike program inspires Indians to “Just Do It”

Sam McCracken, who leads Nike’s Native American Business program, says the growth of interest in American Indians in participating in the company’s diabetes prevention program has been keeping him going the last few years.

McCracken, a member of the Ft. Peck tribes, became a Nike employee in 1997, working in the company’s human resources department to revitalize its Native American network. He then took charge of Nike’s Native American Diabetes Program; and his role has since expanded to include other American Indian projects, including one with the Office of Indian Education School Program and the recently signed memo of understanding with Indian Health Service to promote healthy life-styles.

McCracken said the secret to increasing the participation of Native Americans in all these programs is through inspiration. “If you inspire them, proper nutrition and fitness all fall into place,” he said.

Nike partners with the Native American Diabetes Program, which provides incentives to northwest tribes with prevention programs. It also serves as host of “Train to Trainer,” an event in which 100 representatives from the 36 tribes convene to share best practices.

The Office of Indian Education School program allows Bureau of Indian Affairs schools to directly buy Nike products at wholesale prices. “The memo of understanding is the first ever between a for-profit firm and the Indian Health Service,” McCracken said.

Nike is lending its expertise to the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention national campaign, which will include a summit to be held in Washington D.C. in September, scheduled to coincide with the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

Nike also sponsors a WINGS program, which promotes running as a way to enhance self-esteem among American Indian youth. In conjunction with that, it has begun to offer grants, such as one to help the Cherokee Nation’s Sequoyah High School refurbish its track. “To receive grants, tribes apply and a committee determines acceptance,” McCracken said. “These programs are about building relationships. I think I have a unique ability to build those relationship, and build trust with the tribes. I wouldn’t steer them in the wrong direction.”

Grant applications can be mailed to: 1 Bowerman Drive, Beaverton, OR 97005.

Income gap widens between rich and poor

By Leigh Strope
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Over two decades, the income gap has steadily increased between the richest Americans, who own homes and stocks and got big tax breaks, and those at the middle and bottom of the pay scale, whose paychecks buy less.

The growing disparity is even more pronounced in the recovering economy. Wages are stagnant and the middle class is shouldering a larger tax burden. Prices for health care, housing, tuition, gas and food have soared.

The wealthiest 20 percent of households in 1973 accounted for 44 percent of the total U.S. income, according to the Census Bureau. Their share jumped to 50 percent in 2002, while everyone else’s fell. For the bottom fifth, the share dropped from 4.2 percent to 3.5 percent.

Jobs and economy top the list of voter concerns this year. President Bush touts a strong economy that is growing, but polls find that Americans have doubts and think jobs are scarce. John Kerry is trusted more on the economy, with Democrats talking regularly of “two Americas,” divided between the rich and everyone else.

That argument has merit, some private economist say. “For those working the bottom half of the pay scale, they’re under an enormous amount of pressure,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com

New government data also show that President Bush’s tax cuts have shifted the overall tax burden to the middle class from the wealthiest Americans.

“We’re just trying to get ahead,” said Debbie Reames, 49, of Raytown, Mo., whose bank job of 24 years was outsourced in February. “But it seems like we climb a few rungs and then we fall back again.”

Reams has a new secretarial job, which pays \$7,000.00 a year less than her bank job, and she works catering jobs for extra money. Her husband, Russ, can no longer work after an injury. One son is finishing college and another will start in the fall. So the family budget tightened. That meant fewer cable channels, more meals at home, postponed doctor appointments,

missed vacations, delayed credit card payments, all to “keep the wolf away from the door,” she said.

The U.S. jobs market is soft, sending wages down. Hiring came to a near standstill last month, with companies adding just 32,000 new jobs overall, stunning economists who had expected seven times as many.

More than 1 million jobs have been added back to the 2.6 million lost since Bush took office, but they pay less and offer fewer benefits, such as health insurance. The new jobs are concentrated in health care, food services, and temporary employment, firms all lower-paying industries. Temp agencies alone account for about a fifth of all new jobs. Three in five pay below the national median hourly wage—\$13.53, said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist for Wells Fargo.

On a weekly basis, the average wage of \$525.84 is at the lowest level since October 2001. The income gap is showing up in booming sales of luxury items. Porsche Cars North America Inc. says sales are up 17 percent for the year. Strong sales at Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue overshadow lackluster sales at stores such as Wal-mart, Sears and Payless Shoes.

Real estate agent Lance Anderson, 38, of Overland Park, Kan., expects a record sales year, as homeowners upgrade to more expensive homes and commercial clients expand. He recently took his family to Disney World for a two-week Florida vacation. “My clientele, it seems as a whole, has seen positive growth,” he said. So his family, including three children, now eat out more often and spend more on clothes. They recently bought two new cars and anticipate buying a larger house in the next few years.

Economists say wages should rise as companies boost hiring. But the growing gap between the haves and have nots will remain.

Technology has eliminated many U.S. jobs, as has global competition, particularly from low-wage countries such as China. Highly skilled, educated workers in America will thrive as demand rises, Sohn said, while low-skilled jobs remain vulnerable to out-sourcing.

Leadership transition for Indian Affairs

U.S. Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs David Anderson has announced that Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Aurene M. Martin plans to leave her post in September and that Mike Olsen, currently the Counselor to the Assistant Secretary, will assume many of the duties of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary effective immediately.

Martin informed Interior Secretary Gale Norton of her plans to leave the Department effective September 10 to pursue employment in the private sector. Ethics guidelines established to protect departing employees and the Department from potential conflict-of-interest issues have prompted Martin to seek recusal from any and all potential issues which may be of interest to prospective employers, prompting Olsen’s designa-

tion to assume the duties of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary.

Mike Olsen, Anderson’s selection to assume the duties of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, has served as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary since May of 2003, with particular emphasis on natural resources and land use issues. Previously, Olsen served as Director of the Office of Native American and Insular Affairs for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee of Resources.

“Mike Olsen has been instrumental in helping to resolve difficult natural resource issues - often bridging the gap between fiercely held opinions on these contentious matters,” Anderson said. “Mike’s determination to help Native people and his dedication as a public servant has made him my choice for this new assignment.”

Ocmulgee Celebration ranks in Top 20 for Southeast

By Joshua Slane

MACON, GA. — Work hard, play Hard. While the majority of us know more about the first than the second, the Ocmulgee mounds are going to be a sight for the second on September 18 through 19. The Ocmulgee National Monument will be hosting Ocmulgee Indian Celebration, which has been ranked one of the top 20 events happening in the Southeast.

Festivities will begin at 10 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Events will include arts and crafts, music, dancing, history, and storytelling.

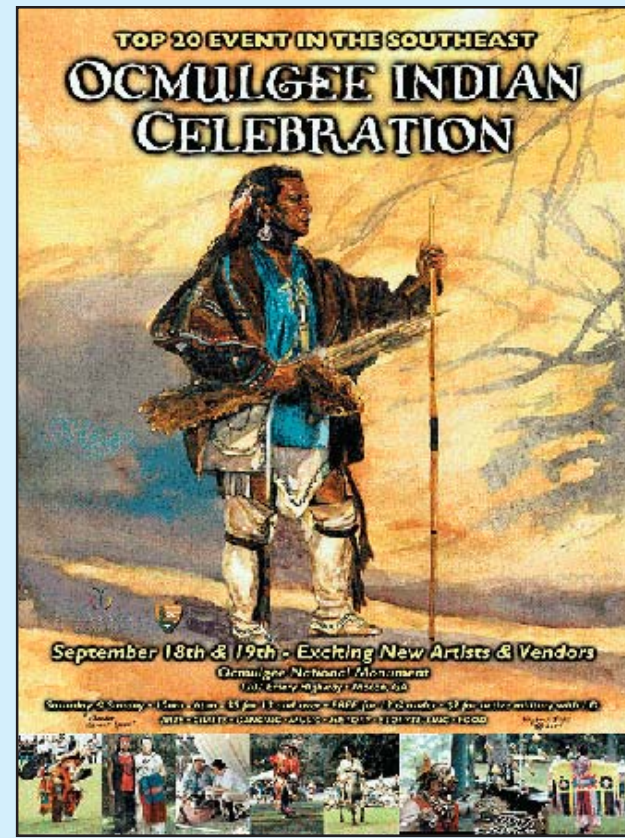
The Ocmulgee Indian Celebration honors the heritage of the Southeast's indigenous people, especially the Muscogee (Creek) people. It also promotes wise stewardship of the nation's public lands, and salutes local public agencies. It has won many awards and has been widely acclaimed by educators and Native American groups. And like the Discovery Lab and Teacher's Guide, it has been widely emulated.

Many people are wondering what the mounds are. The Ocmulgee mounds are a memorial to the antiquity of man in the Southeastern corner of the

continent. The Ocmulgee National Monument preserves a continuous record of human life in the Southeast from the earliest times to the present. From Ice-Age hunters to the Muscogee (Creek) people of historic times, there is evidence of 12,000 years of human habitation.

One period stands out. Between 900 A.D. and 1200 A.D., a skillful farming people lived on this site. Known as the Mississippians, they were part of a distinctive culture which crystallized about 750 A.D. in the middle Mississippi Valley. Over the next seven centuries they spread along riverways throughout much of the central and eastern United States. The Mississippians brought a more complex way of life to the region and in Ocmulgee they left behind eight earthen mounds and the remains of a ceremonial earthlodge.

The monument today consists of two units separated by two miles of riverine wetlands along the Ocmulgee River. The main unit is adjacent to the city of Macon, an urban area with a population of 118,000. The isolated Lamar mounds and Village unit can be visited by special permit.



Oo-leo mute, Wan-na-lee, Te-lah-nay, Where did you go

By Wanda A Greene

This is a true story about the Trail of Tears. Three Euchee people were rounded up on a "mop up" operation by the federal government and the local militia in Lauderdale County Alabama, circa 1839. They were taken to what the local Native peoples called "Singing River," today it is known as the Tennessee River.

Loaded on a large keel boat in Tuscumbia, Alabama, it carried them down river about thirty miles where they were put on wagons and removed to the Indian Nations of Oklahoma. Each had a numbered tag to wear to the Nations. Te-lah-nay's number was fifty nine and her sister, Wah-na-lee wore number sixty. Oo-leoo-mute, a unrelated elderly Euchee man, who was accepted by the two sisters as a grandfather figure, was also tagged. Muscogee and Chickasaw people were also collected in this event and forcibly removed to what is now Oklahoma.

Languages were shared and became part of the girl's language skills. These were young women when they were found and sent on their journey toward Muskogee or Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Records show they did arrive and that is where the trail ends for two of them. However, Te-lah-nay learned English on the way to Oklahoma. "When I got to the Nations I listened to the rivers and streams out there and there were

no songs," she said.

Being very observant of her surroundings during her travel, this young lady did something very unique. She missed the river and her homeland so much she began her long walk back to Florence, Alabama. "The reason my sister, Wah na lee, did not come back with me was because she is like a wild flower, she can grow anywhere." stated Te-lah-nay.

The journey handed her many obstacles and maneuvers over the three to four years before locating her home. Education concerning food, the stars, land, weather, medicines, and much more were taught to Te-lah-nay at an extremely early age. Her survival depended on her early teachings as a child and her remembrances saved her life. Many meals consisted of corn and crawfish during her adventure.

Returning to a hostile environment in Alabama, she hid as she would have been hung on sight. These young women had made a friendship in Florence with Miss Lottie, a Freed woman, who had sown white meat in their dress hems for their journey to Indian Territory. Yes, someone cared about what happened to these Native American girls. Miss Lottie, would become Te-lah-nay's rescuer after returning to Florence.

Tom Hendrix, Te-lah-nay's great-great grandson, has written a book about his great-

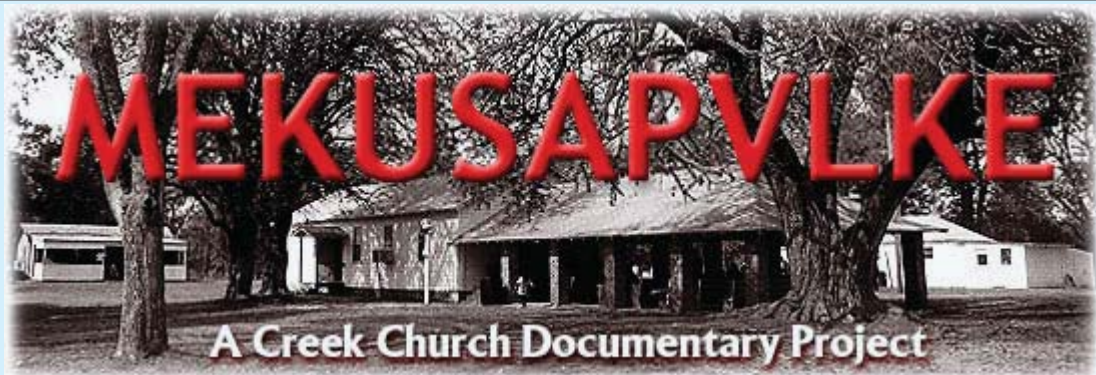
great grandmother, Te-lah-nay. The book is entitled, "If the Legends Fade."

The family of Te-lah-nay don't know what happened to the old gentleman called Oo-leoo-mute. Do you know if he was part of your family? The girls were indebted to him for his wisdom during their trip and their descendants would like to hear from you.

Wah-na-lee's whereabouts is also unknown. Are you related to her? She married a man named William Chesa or Chisca. Another part of history arose regarding a person only named Billie who had some connection to the Freed people. Making a long story short if you are related or information regarding Oo-leoo-mute, Wah-na-lee, about Te-lah-nay's journey, or knowledge about any relatives of these individuals or have a story about these events, contact 918-366-9851.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The staff of the MNN would like to apologize to the Seminole Nation for a mistake published in last month's issue. It was reported that the Seminoles were traditionally a Pow-Wow tribe, they are not. Our staff would like to thank Mr. Spain of the Historic Preservation Office at the Seminole Nation for pointing this mistake out to me. Again, the MNN staff would like to express our sincerest apologies.



"An artist collaboration between a writer, a photographer, and the Muscogee people."

MEKUSAPVLKE is a photo documentary project using narrative and text to support the photographs. It is

not a history project per-se. The goals are to document the Muscogee Creek churches

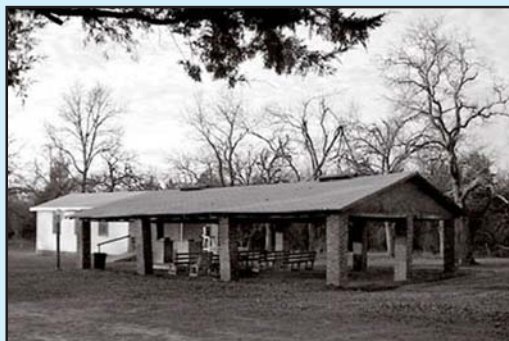
and the unique Christian culture of the Muscogee people.

The research and fieldwork will be within the lands of the Oklahoma Creek people and will include several denominations. The early focus of this project will be with the older traditional churches and their events and rites, the families and communities, the elders, the key leaders, hymns and song, food and feast, and the youth of today.

"I have seen the people of the church culture change with time," says Tom Fields, coordinator of MEKUSAPVLKE. "The Creek churches (and our tribe) are at a point in time when the elders are passing away, and when they go we will be left with only doctrine and customs, without the personal historical thread to the past to guide us. I want to photograph those elders who have personal

knowledge and experience with that past so the next generation will be able

to see and read about their lives, the traditions, and the unique customs of the church culture as it is today."



Tulmohusee Baptist Church 2003, Photo courtesy: Tom Fields



Alabama-Coushatta Baptist Church 2002, Photo courtesy: Tom Fields

Born in Tahlequah and the son of a Creek minister, Tom has attended film school in Santa Fe, New Mexico and photography school in Tulsa.

His exhibiting career began when two of his photographs were accepted at Tulsa's Philbrook Museums Annual Indian Art show in 1979, the first photographs ever accepted into the show. Recently his work is part of the contemporary art exhibit, *Who Stole the Teepee*, at the National Museum of the American Indian, New York City.

Fields work is most influenced by his surroundings. "I've learned to photograph what's close to me, physically, and spiritually," said Fields.

He has wanted to do this project for several years. Being a photographer and video producer, he considers himself an artist who believes in the educational and historical importance of this work.

Tom has formed an advisory board to guide the



Salt Creek UMC 2002, Photo courtesy: Tom Fields

project and assist in selecting the final body of work for the exhibition. They also make recommendations for further use of the information gathered.

The plan is to develop a traveling museum exhibit during Oklahoma's centennial in 2007, with a book, CD and other relevant educational materials.

He has another project in the future. Fields says, "I would like the next photo project to be about people of the tribal towns. I have visited some of the younger tribal town mekkos, and they do appreciate the importance of documenting their town."

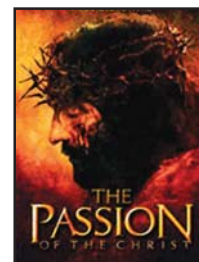
Tom has a website he has created for his work on this project. The website includes a few selected photographs of churches and some members. If you would like to see the pictures or submit individual narratives, stories about experiences, or any other relevant information about the Creek Church experience, go to <http://www.nativefields.com/creekchurchproject/index.htm>.

Church Events

Church showing Passion of Christ movie

HENRYETTA — Hickory Ground Baptist Church will be hosting a free showing The Passion of the Christ on Sept. 18 or Oct. 2. The movie begins at 7:30 p.m. and seating is limited. Concession will be available.

The church is located from the junction of Main Street and Lake Road in Henryetta, go south 4 1/4 miles, then the road will curve and go east 2 1/2 miles to Salem Baptist Church, then go south approximately 3 1/2 miles and this road will curve eastward to the Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church sign. For more information, contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 650-0388.



High Springs Fall Revival

OKEMAH — High Springs Baptist Church will be having a Fall Revival September 20 through 24. Services begin at 7 p.m. with different churches giving devotionals nightly. The church is located five miles south of Okemah on Highway 27.

Greenleaf Church S.S. Promotion/Fun Day

OKEMAH — Greenleaf Baptist Church is having a Sunday School Promotion/Fun Day on September 25 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The focus of this fun day is to increase their Sunday school attendance of mainly ages three to fourteen and our outreach.

Activities include: turtle race (bring your own turtle); scavenger hunt (bring a bible); sack race; tug-a-war; cake walk; water balloons; basketball throw and tricycle race (ages 3 to 5). Everyone welcome.

Greenleaf Church is located two miles west of Okemah on Highway 56 and a quarter mile south.

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Superintendent appreciates road work

PRESTON — The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church recently held their 162nd session at the Northeast District Center.

One of the many things the delegates and members of the churches appreciated about the event was the presence of the new paved roads leading to the Center. Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Okmulgee County commissioners worked jointly on this project.

"On behalf of the 89 Native American churches of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, I would like to express our appreciation to the Muscogee Creek Nation and the Okmulgee County Commissioners for providing the funds and manpower for the paving of this road," said David Wilson Conference Superintendent. It is refreshing to see our tribes and local agencies working together on projects that benefit so many people."

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the July 27, extraordinary session.

May 11, special session

Absent were: **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee District; **Lena Wind**, Okfuskee District; **Keeper Johnson**, Okmulgee District; and **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (16-3-0) NCA 04-130, authorizing a special appropriation to assist five (5) parents to attend the graduation ceremony for their youth all of whom are Creek Nation Youth Lighthouse Explorers;

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; representative **Nichols** was out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved as amended (13-5-0) TR 04-101, authorizing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation gaming operations authority board to exercise temporary jurisdiction and control over the Duck Creek Indian community center gaming center;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; and **Fields**, Tukvptce

July 31, quarterly session

Absent were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; and **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved as amended (21-0-0) TR 04-097, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an "abbreviated standard form of agreement between owner and architect" and a "standard form of agreement between owner and contractor where the basis of payment is a stipulated sum" for the construction of a new Creek Nation Okmulgee Casino and the demolition of the existing Creek Nation Okmulgee Casino;

- approved (15-5-1) TR 04-098, confirming the nomination of **Jason W. Nichols** to serve on the gaming operations authority board,

voting no were **Tiger**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; and **Williams**, Okmulgee;

abstain was: **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

- approved (17-4-0) TR 04-099, confirming the nomination of **William Buck** to serve on the gaming operations authority board;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Chalakee**; and **Quiett**, Tulsa;

- approved (21-0-0) TR 04-102, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 6.0124

acres of tribal property located in McIntosh county;

- approved (20-0-1) NCA 04-102, authorizing a special appropriation for activities to increase voter registration of tribal members and to create a committee to oversee those activities;

abstain Jones, Okmulgee;

- approved as amended (20-1-0) NCA-107, authorizing a special appropriation to fund the tribal complex officer position;

voting no was: **Harjo**, Creek;

- approved as amended (14-7-0) NCA 04-115, authorizing a special appropriation to the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) association to administer social services to citizens in the Oklahoma City area;

voting no were:

Parish, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (18-3-0) NCA 04-120, authorizing a special appropriation for the continued support of the Okmulgee County YMCA water play park;

- approved (21-0-0) NCA 04-128, appropriating funds for the payment of accrued interest on a loan with Bank One for the construction of a healthcare clinic in Wagoner County;

- return to committee (21-0-0) NCA 04-131, amending Title 16, chapter four of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and amending and repealing certain laws to reorganize the exiting structure of lighthouse police;

speaker **Yahola** relinquished the chair to second speaker **Richard Berryhill** to address the following three bills;

- approved as amended (21-0-0) NCA 04-133, authorizing a special appropriation to the mound oversight committee for improvements to the mound auditorium;

- approved (20-1-0) NCA 04-134, authorizing a special appropriation to Muscogee (Creek) chartered Indian Communities to participate in the grand opening of the National museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.;

voting no were: **Notaro**, McIntosh;

representative **K. Johnson** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 04-135, approving the Principal Chief's three year plan to program tribal judgment funds for fiscal years 2005, 2006, & 2007;

Second speaker **Berryhill** turned the chair back over to Speaker **Yahola**;

representative **K. Johnson** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (19-1-0) NCA 04-138, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to legislative branch fiscal year 2004 budget;

voting no were: **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

representative **K. Johnson** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 04-142, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to out-of-boundaries citizens (aka 9th district)

August 9, Removal hearing

Absent were: **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa;

removal hearing — Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma;

- approved to remove **Marshall Hardin** (14-3-2);

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; and **Fields**, Tukvptce;

abstain were: **Wind**, Okfuskee and **Jones**, Okmulgee;

- approved to remove **Carrie Williams** (12-5-2);

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

abstain were: **Wind**, Okfuskee and **Jones**, Okmulgee

- approved to remove **Anderson Hale** (15-4-0);

voting no were: **Wind**, Okfuskee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

August 12, Emergency session

Absent were: **Roger Barnett**, Creek District; **Sandra Golden**, Okfuskee District; **Shirlene Ade**, Tukvptce; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa;

- approved as amended (20-0-0) TR 04-091, confirming the nomination of **Rhol Perryman** to serve on the board of commissioners for the Housing Authority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

- approved as amended (20-0-0) TR 04-092, confirming the nomination of **Jim B. Harjo** to serve on the Board of Commissioners for the Creek Nation Indian Housing Authority;

- approved as amended (20-0-0) TR 04-093, confirming the nomination of **L. Charles Frank** to serve on the board of commissioners for the Creek Nation Indian Housing Authority;

- approved as amended (19-1-0) TR 04-103, confirming the nomination of **Larry Cahwee** to serve on the board of commissioners for the Creek Nation Indian Housing Authority;

voting no was: **Fields**, Tukvptce.



Tukvptce District Representative Shirlene Ade

HOLDENVILLE — First of all, I want to thank you for placing your confidence in me by electing me to serve you on the Muscogee (Creek) National Council. These first eight months have been filled with very fast paced activities and full agendas.

Clothing for school children was a consuming interest and concern of mine during my campaign. Health care and accountability of resources within the Division of Health Administration was a strong concern. The outside boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation when applying for emergency assistance was also a grave concern. The quality and timeliness of service provided by the Creek Nation Housing Authority was in need of much improvement. Quality of services and courtesy to the public by various service program managers was less than optional. All of these issues and concerns lend confusion, frustration and wasted resources for the Creek citizens we are here to serve. These were some of the issues that I felt the strongest about and influenced my decision to run for office.

Since the election, the National Council has increased the school clothing allowance to \$200. I sponsored legislation for over income school children regardless of place of residence. My goal is to see the \$200 amount raised to \$250. Attractive quality clothes encourage our school children to strive for excellence in education. These funds are to be made available prior to the beginning of each school year.

I have introduced legislation to transfer the daily management and monitoring

of the accounting function from the Division of Health Administration to the Office of the Controller. This is in compliance with Title 37 Sub Chapter 7; subsection 2 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Codes of Law.

I have cosponsored legislation to establish permanent eligibility guidelines for an emergency hardship program. This program, if passed, will allow the expansion of the program to reach tribal citizens that were previously ineligible for assistance regardless of where they reside. Assistance may be given to any eligible household once a year up to \$500 based on need, as determined by the Social Services Department.

I voted in favor of transferring the Creek Housing Authority from the jurisdiction of the State of Oklahoma to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation within the Office of the Chief. This included a complete replacement of Housing Administration and Board of Commissioners.

The level of cooperation and courtesy by program managers to the public has noticeably improved; however, there is room for further improvement. I commend the Chief for addressing this issue by implementing quality staff conversions and program adjustments.

I will continue to strive for effectiveness and simplification of our systems and trim the bureaucracy in promoting efficiency and quality of our services to you, the creek citizens. Again, thank you for your support, confidence and trust.

Shirlene M. Ade, Tukvptce District Representative



Okfuskee District Representative Sandi Golden

WELEETKA — I took time off from the National Council and I wanted to explain my absence. In August, I lost my mother. Her health situation worsened in June, and I made the decision to stay home with her until the end.

I apologize for any inconvenience to Creek citizens, especially those who live in the Okfuskee District. I am sure there are things I have not done, but I have picked up where I left off.

One of the last and most important activities in which I was involved in was the "Shake the Vote" campaign. At the Creek Nation Festival, we set up a booth to register voters. There were several council representatives who volunteered their time to help register voters. On Sunday, we even had several youngsters volunteer. They helped pick up trash and take up chairs in front of the stage. I think the oldest was 10 years old. They were great!

Voting in the 2004 election is critical. People who vote already get what they want. Everybody knows Indians don't vote, so why should we spend our time trying to get them registered? Because if we get everyone registered, we can get them to the polls. It would be an awesome sight when all the registered Indian voters show up at the polls in their red shirts! Oksatvs!

We now have an established committee who will be working on ideas to get the communities involved. The National Council appropriated monies to assist in the effort. Hopefully, Creek communities will host more activities to include voter registration. Additionally, we hope communities will pull together volunteers to provide transportation to the polling sites. The last day to register before one can vote in the November election is October 8. If you don't know where the polling site is located, call the county election board. Ask about voting before election day.

Besides the obvious presidential election, many state candidates are running and are also keeping their eyes on the Indian vote. In other states, the Indian vote has been a deciding factor in the selection of state representatives. How many county positions could be decided by Indian voters?

There are also state questions on gaming and tobacco. As we all well know, the state is becoming more sophisticated in coming up with ideas to get money from tribes. I am studying these issues very closely. Right now, it appears they have dreamed up another way to tax the tribes for more money. I believe tribes are making money on the short run, but will continue to have the state circling outside the casinos! I think they need our casino money to bail out horse racing and will use tobacco tax for cancer research. What did the tribes get from the big tobacco settlement that came back to the state? We need to find out.

If our government would stop making it so easy for companies to go out of the country, we might not have lost so many jobs. Those companies would rather work with foreigners than work with tribes in their own back yard! It has really hurt the small, rural communities.

On the Council side, we make laws that effect the whole Creek Nation. Many though decisions come before us each council session. I have been asked why I vote no on some issues. I think we would not be good lawmakers if we voted all the same because we didn't want to look bad or because we didn't like someone.

I try to look at the whole picture rather than just what we have on the table. Most importantly, we have to acknowledge that Creek communities are very different. For example, there are communities with casinos and smoke shops and there are just as many without. That is why I believe we have to make decisions based on need rather than what looks good for what we want.

In the last year, we have lost many jobs in the Okfuskee District. But I think the Creek Nation has contributed to the local economy by providing employment opportunities, affordable housing, educational assistance and also, health care.

Although we don't always agree, I think we work together with the administration for the very best with enough for everyone. Our current administration is making strides in that area. Together everyone achieves more.

Sandra Golden, Okfuskee District Representative



Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

- Pediatric Dentist - Okmulgee Health Center
- Chief Financial Officer
- Public Health Nurse - Okmulgee
- RN Supervisor - Sapulpa
- LPN - Okmulgee (Temporary)
- Cook's Aide - Dewar
- Interviewer Consultant - Tobacco Prevention Program
- Health System Administrator - Okmulgee
- Head Cook - Muskogee
- Services Research Assistant - BHS
- Nurse Practitioner - Okmulgee
- Billing Technician - Okmulgee
- Coding Specialist - CNCH
- Behavioral Health Clinician - BHS
- Registered Nurse - CNCH

The Human Resources Department staff follows well-defined policies and procedures regarding the staffing process. Each position has a closing date that must be adhered to without exception. Some positions are more difficult to staff than others and are recruited as "Open Until Filled". The Personnel Department must receive applications for a minimum of five days before the first panel of qualified applicants is provided to the hiring official. Applications will be received until the position is staffed in these circumstances. The Division applies Tribal and Indian Preference in all hiring and employment decisions in accordance with Tribal Ordinance as established by National Council Act 81-40. To receive preference an applicant must submit verification in the form of a CDIB (Certified Degree of Indian Blood) Card or Citizenship Card. For more information call (918)756-4333 or (800)782-8291 or visit their website at www.muscogeehealth.org

Creek Nation Casino

Guest Services:

This job will vary in duties. You will be required to be a front door greeter, work in the game room, or any job you are needed for Marketing.

Promotion Host:

Must be willing to greet and supply guest with whatever they need. Must follow directions and be able to work on your own.

Promotions Supervisor:

Must be a people person who can take on the responsibilities of the job. Preferably some college, but job experience will be considered. Must be willing to work as a team member with other management and employees.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Housing Authority Deputy Director:

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from a four year college or university and three to five years related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Child Treatment Worker, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services:

Qualifications: Bachelors Degree in Social Work, Mental Health, or a related Behavioral Science. Must have experience in dealing with crisis situations, and exhibit a dedicated desire to provide service for their client. Must possess a valid driver's license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Child Placement Worker, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services:

Qualifications: Bachelors degree in Social Work or other related field and one year experience in professional social work. Masters Degree is preferred. Knowledgeable of Creek language. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Intake Specialist, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services:

Qualifications: Bachelors Degree in Social Work or related Behavioral Science, or experience and education equivalent to a Bachelors Degree, and one year professional social work.

Must submit and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing. Must possess a valid drivers license.

Outreach/Resource Specialist (part time), Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution:

Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be computer literate. Must be a self starter and work well with the public. Must possess a valid drivers license and a good driving record. Must submit to and pass all necessary back ground checks and drug testing.

Teacher's Aide (part time), Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okmulgee Head Start:

High school Diploma or equivalent. Must have knowledge and experience with Indian interpersonal relationships, previous experience in Early Childhood or Child Development in dealing with children. CDA or Associates Degree in Early Childhood is preferred. Must have a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Bus Driver/Maintenance (Part time), Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start:

Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must obtain an Oklahoma Bus Drivers Certificate, CDL, CPR and First Aide Certificate. Must possess a valid drivers license and a good driving record. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks.

All jobs going through Personnel have Indian Preference. Send applications to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel Services; P.O. Box 580; Okmulgee, OK 74447; fax, 918-756-2284; or e-mail them to jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation employment application is also available in PDF format on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

JOB ADVERTISEMENTS: *The MNN is accepting job advertisements to run in the newspaper. If you or your company would like to advertise any openings, please contact Josh Slane 732-7637 or e-mail jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov for information on rates or to place your ad.*

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to secure multiple task order awards

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) is divided into three divisions: Information Technology, Fire and Security and Construction. Currently all three divisions are pursuing awards. The Technical Division is currently pursuing contracts in professional services much like professional service contracts with Chickasaw, Choctaw, and other tribes. September 7th, 2004 MNBE was awarded a one year contract through the United States Army Medical Command.

“Seventy-five percent of all federal spending occurs during the last 45 days of the fiscal year, generally in September,” stated Michael Nalley, MNBE Director. “We expect at least five more task order awards within this month.”

“The Construction Division recently received an award for the contract to build the Okmulgee Casino,” stated Woody Anderson, Construction Services Division Manager.

Yet another extensive project they are pursuing is for a possible contract with JE Dunn Co. in Kansas City. JE Dunn is one of the largest general contractors in the country.

MNBE is in the process of getting their Minority Business Enterprise Certification, as well as their DBE (Disadvantage Business Enterprise) certification. JE Dunn states in their Sources Sought Notice that the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code is 236210 with a Small Business Size Standard of \$28.5 million. The prime contractor must have the capability to perform at least



MNBE Construction Division does repair work to a home made possible by the Housing Improvement Program.

20 percent of the contract work with his or her own employees. The project will range from \$25 Million to \$27 Million.

The existing building is one of the oldest at Pantex. Each section is in need of various modifications and refurbishment to bring it up to date and in line with current code and safety basis requirements. Work will consist of removal of material handling systems and mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, and operations systems. Work also includes removal of roof-mounted structures, demolition of existing structures and removal of ground covering on the mounded earth

above the facility.

New work will generally consist of new material handling, mechanical, plumbing, fire protection, and electrical systems to support the operations of the facility including a high pressure fire line, new roof structures and associated equipment. A separate new administrative facility will be constructed and will house an office area, break-room, restroom and janitorial space.

As a potential contractor MNBE must possess all required permits and licenses to perform general construction work in Texas. Which they are in the process of obtaining at this time.

Selling or buying a home



Cynthia “Janie” Fox
918-378-2679
11717 South Memorial Drive
Bixby, OK 74008
Jfox@tulsarealtors.com

A Message from the MNBE Director

September is the most active month in the Federal Fiscal Year and the most important month in the young life of the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise. This month MNBE is focused on securing multiple awards which will support all three of our operating divisions and that will provide our people with career opportunities and our Tribe with a great revenue source. Our business is focused on becoming a leading Tribal Federal Contractor.
Michael Nalley, MNBE Director

Spotlight

"The 8 year old wakes up now and instead of looking for her comfort from her mother, her priority is to give comfort to her brother. This little 8 year old is trying to act like a big girl watching over her little brother like she has seen her mother do."

Just a few seconds more, just a few seconds more

Just a few seconds out of your life, that's all it's going to be. But it's better to be home just a little faster. After all, those beans and potatoes aren't going to stay hot forever. But then again, that's why we invented the microwave wasn't it, to make things just a little faster? Just a few seconds out of your life in order to not miss the best part of that television show or that ball game. You know your team plays a whole better when you are watching them.

In our fast e-mail give it to me yesterday world, we're always constantly told to slow down, but we never do. To be slow or not having the same fast paced rhythm as others, one is thought to out of touch. Right here, right now is what matters and we have to get it all done very fast!

Sometimes we think of the good old days and think of how life might just have been a little slower and easier, with less stress and less worry. Truth is, people have always been wanting to do things faster and faster, no matter what era of time you consider. Even back in Biblical times, when their were no high speed internet or last second deadlines, Jesus Christ was telling the masses not to worry and that which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature.

On a midwinters day on February 10, 2004, a Creek mother and her children, a four year old son and eight year old daughter were starting their day, traveling down the road. They proceeded on their way, but another driver had to be quick. The car that smashed them from the side, was of course, not expected. Not too many people would expect to be hit by a car that did not obey the stop sign. But they were, and to say that the sadness ends with a dark closure is not true, for the misery has only begun.

According to the statistics of the United State Bureau of Transportation in 2002, more than six million Americans were killed in traffic accidents. Many stories can be told, such as this one of the Jackson family. For grandfather Jackie Jackson, he watches everyday and sees the effects of our fast-paced, just a few seconds more, just a few seconds more society.

The eight year old wakes up now and instead of looking for her comfort from her mother, her priority is to give comfort to her brother. This little eight year old girl is trying to act like a big girl watching over her little brother like she has seen her mother do. Her little brother was also injured in the same accident that put their mother in a coma that she most likely will never recover from. In clinical terms, she is still alive, but her breath is only sustained by a machine and breathing tubes.

"Their mother loved people, and gave every individual she met an undivided attention, but she loved her family and children most of all," says Jackson. "She loved to make conversation and could speak on any subject with competency and compassion. She was considerate of others and even more so to her husband and children."

Seeing his mother motionless with tubes coming out of her was too traumatic for the son to see for a long time. He preferred to wait for her come home, when she feels better. But now he somehow understands that she may not be coming home. So he digs down deep and has found the courage to now be able to visit his mother every chance he gets and is encouraged to talk to her, which he does. He sometimes holds her hand for a long time and tells her, "your sugar dumpling is here." He wipes her face with a wet cloth to soothe her like she used to soothe him. He took her his Donald Duck stuffed toy to keep her company for those times when he couldn't be there.

"At night," says Jackson, "that's when it's really tough. No bedtime stories, no tucking into bed, no mother listening to how her ballgames went that day. And all the while listening with that familiarly attentive smiling face they were so accustomed to seeing and the soothing voice they were accustomed to hearing. How do you comfort an eight and four year old who misses and are crying for their mother who may never come home? Not very well."

Jackson's open admission of the children having to cope is tough, but confesses how hard it is for everyone else, including the husband.

"Another special day passes since February 10," says Jackson. "July 25 is her husband's and daughter's birthday. Like all the other special occasions, Valentine, Easter, Mother's Day, and Fourth of July, the days pass on."

Usually, the Spotlight page is reserved for more pleasant stories. This month's page of the Muscogee Nation News Spotlight serves a purpose, it is for this

powerful point that needs to be made. Jackson is grateful for all the prayers and support the family has received, but has a message for someone who wanted to be too fast.

"Is the 10 seconds of your time you were trying to save by not stopping at the stop sign worth it? Your momentary careless act has physically and emotionally damaged two children by taking away their mother, robbed a loving husband of a wife he loved more than life itself, and provides all of her friends and family with a lifetime of sadness and terrible sense of loss."



Is the 10 seconds of your time you were trying to save by not stopping at the stop sign worth it?

Shop talk with Gerald

Unless you have been living under a big rock somewhere, you have at least taken notice of the Summer Olympic games that took place in Athens, Greece. The American athletes certainly shined winning the most amount of any medals of any country participating. Although Muscogee (Creek) athlete Brian Berryhill was not a part of the U.S. Olympic track squad, another person with Native American heritage was able to serve as a coach. Howard Gayle Hatch, served as the Heach Coach of the U.S. Olympic weightlifting team. Hatch, who is of Delaware descent, was recently inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame during ceremonies held at Tulsa in January of this year. The Muscogee (Creek) Communications Department was requested to cover the ceremonies for the Native American inductees which also included Jim Warne, and Larry Joe Ramirez.

Well, we have received two nominations our *Muscogee Nation News Athlete of the Month*. In last month's edition, we requested you, the reader, to submit your nominations on a Creek athlete, high school, college, or otherwise, so they can receive some well deserved attention. We look forward to receiving more nominations next month. We know you have sons, daughters, grandkids, nephews, nieces, or friends that excel in athletics. Now is the time to let every know.

In the July issue of the MNN, we reported the first ever Native American Heavyweight no-holds barred Champion that was crowned during the fight night at Kialigee Tribal Town. The champion, RedCloud Anquoe, will look to defend his crown in October. We'll report the details as they come along.

Interesting note, the Miami Hurricane/Florida State game was postponed due to a real hurricane by the name of Francis. So what does that mean when you are named after a team and can't play when the real deal shows up. Maybe they ought to change their name and be called Miami sunshine or something.

Speaking of the college game again, the world is right again with the football flying in the air. And the pro game is going strong as well.

The Sooners are taking care of business right now, the month of October is looming right around the corner. The revenge game against Kansas State happens, as well the Red River shoot-out in Dallas.

This month is usually more telling than any others in how the Sooners will fare during the season. Hats off to the Cowboys of Oklahoma State who have started the season strong. Hopefully, The University of Tulsa can keep turning it around and have good success also!

Let us know about those Creek athletes out there!

Creek Girls Help Okmulgee Infield



Pictured, from left to right, are: Aleana Harley., Kayla Rabbit, Sammy Rabbit, Desiree Booker, and Betina Beaver



OKMULGEE— Creek girls are helping the Okmulgee High School reach high marks this year with the infield mainly comprised of Muscogee (Creek) players.

Those girls are: Desiree Booker, Sammy Rabbit, Kayla Rabbit, ,Betina Beaver, and Alena Harley.

Booker is the shortstop, Sammy is the pitcher, Kayla plays second base, Beaver is first base and Harley is behind the plate as the catcher.

Sammy and Kayla transferred in from Wilson schools this fall.

Coach Justin Bean, who is in his fifth year at the helm, is excited about the chances of this year's team.

"So far our record is 19 wins and 5 losses," said Bean. "And looking at those losses, three of those are to top teams in their respective classes. The Lady Bulldogs were able to avenge one loss to Sterling. Which Bean is quick to point out that star pitcher Rabbit was not on the mound due to leg injury when the loss occurred. Rabbit was near perfect in another game against McAlester, as she allowed only one hit in a 13-0 shutout. But little sister Kayla does some pitching too, the Sophomore threw a no-hitter against Victory Christian in her first start earlier this year.

The Coach will enjoy the high level of play for longer than a year. Desiree, Alena, Sammy and Betina are Juniors, and Kayla is a Sophomore.

Bean runs a philosophy that is cemented in the belief that the middle line of defense needs to be very strong. "I've always been taught that you got

to build your team right up the middle of the field," says Bean. "Your catcher, your pitcher, your short-stop, your second baseman and your center fielder. If you are strong there, you can have a good team."

Bean knows that his catcher, is certainly the main anchor of the team. "Alena is our catcher, and she is not really a catcher, but she's really a first baseman, but Sammy is such a good pitcher, that we have to have someone back there that can handle her and she is the only one other than probably Desiree or Kayla, but we have to have them at their designated places. She (Alena) makes a great sacrifice just being back there because she is not a very big girl, but she swings better than any player I have seen, she can flat out hit," says Bean proudly.

The Okmulgee Coach is really proud of his players and sees great possibilities for his pitcher. "Sammy is a division one prospect, pitching wise, she still has some maturing to do on the mound. Whenever things get a little shaky on the mound, she gets down on herself a little bit. But that just her wanting to succeed," defends Bean who understands this same attitude carries over to the other four as well. "These kids are realizing you may not succeed every single time. I always tell them if you hit a .300 average in Major League Baseball, you get in the Hall of Fame. Which means that 7 out of 10 times, you don't get on base. So there is failure that you have to deal with and they are learning to handle that."

In fact, that is the basic mentality that all five girls share. "They do not like to lose," exclaims Bean.

Upcoming sports events

Second Annual Warriors Showcase Shoot-out

DEWAR — The First Annual Warriors Showcase Shoot-out All-Indian Basketball Tournament will be held on Nov. 26 and 27 at the Dewar High School Gymnasium.

The double elimination tournament will consist of four age divisions for boys and girls: five to six years old; seven to eight years old; nine to 10 years old; and 11 to 12 years old.

"Because of the numerous requests from last year's event, we are adding a younger age division," said Lucas Taylor, Tournament Coordinator. "The grandparents love to see their grandchildren play. They made up a high percentage of our fan base on Friday last year."

Entry fees for each division is as follows: five to six years old, \$35; seven to eight, \$40; nine to 11, \$50; and 12 to 14, \$60. Deadline for entries is Nov. 15. Late entries will be accepted until Nov. 20 with an additional \$10 late fee. Money orders or cash will only be accepted.

Only eight teams per division will be accepted. Team rosters are limited to eight players. Each team member must provide a CDIB card and a copy of their birth certificate in order to participate.

New to this year's tournament is the special events, an East/West All-Star Game, 3-point contest, and hot shot contest. Plus, all the action can be seen over and over again on a DVD that will be made available after the tournament. The finals will be video taped and will include pregame, halftime, post-game interviews and an awards presentation.

Plaques and medals will be given to the first, second, and third place teams in each divisions. Trophies or plaques will be given for first in the special events.

Also, new to this year's tournament is the Holuby award. This award is given to a male and female in each division for their high energy, enthusiastic play displayed during the tournament. Because of a unforeseen and unpreventive medical emergency, Shane Holuby of Dewar may not be able to compete in this year's tournament. However, because of his outstanding attitude and character, it was the overwhelming consensus of the tournament committee to include him in this year's tournament.

"Many times we question why things like this happen," said Taylor. "But because of his courage and determination, something positive and inspiring will come out of this ordeal!"

For an entry form or for more information contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 732-7634 or after 5 p.m. at (918) 650-3920. Entry forms may also be downloaded from the new look communications home page on www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

MNN Athlete of the Month: Missy Fox



by Lucas Taylor

OKMULGEE — At the age of 11, Missy Fox made a decision that would test her character, as well as her father Brad's. She decided to become a pitcher. As in any sport, time is of the essence. Fox missed out on those early years of repetitious work of perfecting the art of pitching. But as any loving parent would, her father stepped in and has supported his daughter every step of the way.

"We would practice one to two hours a day, six days a week," said Brad. "Sometimes we would go twice a day. I would be at home watching television and remember something she did wrong. I couldn't get it off my mind, so I asked her if she wanted to go practice again. She was eager to go."

It's this type of attitude and determination that has allowed Fox to enjoy success time and time again on the mound. Fox, a senior at Oktaha, has pitched two perfect games in her high school career. She threw a perfect game against Oklahoma Union as a junior, and as a freshman at Checotah High School, she threw a perfect game against McAlester.

She has also secured herself a permanent spot in Oklahoma high school sports history by pitching a 22 inning game against Tahlequah her junior year, the longest regular season softball game ever played.

As far as mechanics and stamina are concerned, Fox rates as one the states best hurlers. At press time, Fox owned a record of 14-2 and an ERA of 0.30. What makes the stats more impressive is that she only throws two pitches, a fastball and changeup. Along with pinpoint control, Fox holds batters at bay with her old school, Roger Clemens mentality.

"At a game this year, I was behind home plate watching Missy throw," said Fox. "She threw a pitch high and tight and someone in the stands said it got away from her. I told them it

didn't. She was just letting them know they were getting to close to the plate."

It's this type of mental toughness that sets her apart from others. "Earlier this season our other pitcher became rattled by the opposing team's chatter," said Fox. "She walked the bases loaded with no outs. Coach Woods put Missy in. She struck out the next three batters."

Fox also pitched against the third ranked Henryetta Lady Knights in the Kellyville Festival early this year. Fox led Oktaha to a hard fought five to four victory. The Henryetta softball team is currently holds the top position in Class 3A.

With all the accolades Fox has gained as a pitcher, teams are finding they also have to deal with her in the batters box as well. The Muskogee Phoenix recently published stats of area players in the Muskogee area with Fox holding down the number two spots in both batting average (.514) and RBI's (18).

This type of all-state caliber play has captured the attention many area colleges, including those out of state. Central Arkansas recently arranged a campus tour for Missy and her parents. "She was overwhelmed by the experience," said Brad. "Oktaha has a town population of maybe three to four hundred. The student enrollment at Central Arkansas is 10,000."

The MNN wishes to congratulate Missy Fox on being the first MNN athlete of the Month. Along with being featured in this month's edition, she will be interviewed on the Muscogee nation News Radio program on Sept. 29. She also automatically qualifies for consideration for the MNN Athlete of the Year.

The staff of the MNN encourages our readers to submit more Creek athletes for consideration of athlete of the month.

GINA GRUENWALD

BIXBY — Funeral services for Gina Gail Gruenwald were held August 27 at New Beginnings Baptist Church with Pastor Joe Gibson officiating.

She was born November 9, 1976 in Tulsa to George and Elector Diane McClain Gruenwald.

Gina was a 1995 graduate of Bixby High School where she excelled in softball and basketball and was named to the All-State Softball team as a catcher. She graduated from Northeastern State University with a degree in Business Marketing.

Gruenwald moved to Denver in June 2003, and was working as a manager for DSW Shoes and also worked at Best Buy.

Her family warmly remembers her as a hard-working and determined young woman that loved to be challenged and would never back down from that challenge. Some of her favorite activities included playing with her dogs, roller-blading, riding bikes and especially spending time with her family.

Preceding her in death was: her father, George Gruenwald and her paternal grandparents, Virginia George and William Keith Gruenwald.

Survivors include: her mother and stepfather, of Bixby; brother, Josh of Leonard; sisters, Sarah and Emily Osborn of Bixby; grandparents, Bill and Sarah McClain of Leonard, Warren and Ann Cole of Catoosa and Grace Osborn of Pryor; numerous cousins, other relatives and good friends.

Casketbearers include: Curtis Brummett; Bobby Brown; Charlie Norton; Brian Whitehead; Willy and Clint Gruenwald. Honorary Casketbearers were Louie Brummett and Charles Villarreal Jr.

Interment was at Rest Haven Cemetery in Sperry.

MINNIE JOHNSON

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Minnie Sullivan Johnson were held August 4 at Thlopthlocco Methodist Church with Rev. Jerry Byrd officiating.

She was born in Okemah on November 7, 1924, to Jimmie and Annie King Sullivan. Minnie was a lifelong resident of Okemah and attended school at Tiger Flat.

She and Jimmie Johnson were married on May 19, 1950. Johnson was a member of Thlopthlocco Methodist Church from the age of twelve and during that time held many leadership offices. She loved watching baseball, feeding her birds, cooking and going to church.

Preceding her in death was: her parents; husband; and three brothers, Otis Sullivan, Sampson Sullivan and George Cook.

Survivors include: four sons, Luther and Johnny, both of Okemah, Daniel of Glenpool and Winslow Johnson of Sapulpa; two daughters, Ann Hinkle of Castle and Connie Lunsford of Okmulgee; three sisters, Mamie Doxtator of Alaska, Lucille Dunson of Glenpool and Leah Dunson of Okemah; ten grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; plus a host of other family and friends.

Interment was at Thlopthlocco Church Cemetery.

MINNIE SPICER

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Minnie J. Jeffley Spicer were held August 14 at Springfield Methodist Church

with Judson Deere and David Dunson officiating.

She was born near Clearview, Oklahoma to Fannie McNac and Teewee Jeffley.

In 1947, Minnie married Eugene Golden and they had four children. She was a housewife until they divorced in 1954 and moved to Oklahoma City to begin work in funeral homes. Spicer moved back to Oklahoma City in 1970 and later, settled back home near Clearview.

Minnie was an active member of the Springfield Methodist Church until she became ill, and attended whenever she could.

Preceding her in death were: her parents; three brothers, Thomas Jeffley, John and Bill Buckley; and one great grandchild.

Survivors include: four children, Julia Davis of Wichita, Kansas, Sanford of Hennessey, Thomas E. of Oklahoma City, and Sandra Golden of Weleetka; two sisters, Rosalie Bustamante of Lawton and Alice Lindsey of Bristow; three brothers, Jesse Jeffley of Kansas City, Kansas, Edmond and Richard Buckley of Weleetka; 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.



Spicer

JAKE WILDCAT

SAPULPA — Funeral services for Rev. Jake Wildcat were held August 20 at Little Cussetah Baptist Church.

He was born in Sapulpa to Nancy Bighead and Joseph Wildcat on January 19, 1919.

Jake was one of very few full blood Euchees remaining. He was a veteran of WWII and served in the Army as a Private, Company C, 50th signal battalion from 1942-1945.

Wildcat was a retired minister and belonged to Pickett Chapel for many years. In 1980, he was baptized by Rev. Solomon Bullett into the Southern Baptist Faith and became a member of Little Cussetah Baptist Church. He was ordained as a Baptist minister and served as Interim pastor in the late 1980's. He also served as prayer chairman of Baptist Men and was honored and received a diploma for completing 100 hours of church study courses.

Preceding him in death was: his first wife, Francis Sims Wildcat; parents; and brother, Monroe Wildcat.

Survivors include: his wife, Marina White Wildcat; daughter, Bennie Anita Drywater; stepson, Marc Fields; five grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and numerous cousins.

Casketbearers were: John Drywater; Kevin Harlan; Harold and Ben Naylor; Kevin Botts; Zach Pickering and Joe "Gusto" Bruner. Honorary casketbearers include: Phillip Coon; Kim and Micheal Howard; Joey, Cody, and Jake Starkey and Hoe-Kee-Mah and Mekko Harlan.

Interment was at Green Hill Memorial Gardens.

Gratitude

Our family wishes to extend a special thank you to everybody who provided food, sent flowers, monetary gifts, and most of all who said prayers and visited with the family during

our great loss.

Gordon "Chip" Williamson family

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Journals written by these Spanish soldiers reflect how impressed they were with the valor and courage of the *Mvskoke*. These same journals contained descriptions of handsome *Mvskoke* leaders, who traveled on litters and were adorned with colorful feather decorated turbans, and on one occasion the *Mvskoke* leader was a young woman, adorned with pearls and exquisite furs, the Spanish referred to her as a "Princess."

In March of 1840 De Soto entered a large town on the Ocmulgee River where he was able to regroup and prepare to move further north, however, the forests were too dense and spring floods made crossing some streams impossible, so he turned westerly and went further into the *Mvskoke Confederacy*. It was here the De Soto expedition first encountered earth and wooden palisaded towns. One of the *Mvskoke* towns mentioned in expedition journals is Talisi, which was located on a horseshoe bend of the Coosa River.

De Soto was then guided by local *Mvskoke* to a fort named Mabila, located somewhere between the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers, Mabila, on a plain, was surrounded by a pole palisade fort, taller than three men. It was here the *Mvskoke* ambushed De Soto, the battle at Mabila raged for several hours, *Mvskoke* warriors were able to best the Spanish foot soldiers, but the Spanish Lancers on horseback, won the day for De Soto. Forty horses were killed, along with 20 Spanish soldiers shot in their unprotected head or neck. Twenty more died later from battle wounds and virtually all of De Soto's men received some kind of combat wound. The *Mvskoke* lost 2,500 to 5,000 warriors along with the Mekko and his sister's son who was the heir.

The battle of Mabila brought De Soto's expedition to a halt, his men all wounded, believed they could never overcome such a warrior society, nor could they enslave men who lived in such a free society. De Soto's men wanted to return south, but De Soto managed to persuade them go further west into Chickasaw territory, where under a massive attack in late December 1840 De Soto lost 12 soldiers, and the Indians took 60 horses. He finally was able to make the bank of the Mississippi River, all the time being harassed by Indian warriors. Journal writers report De Soto became ill in the spring of 1542, died in May, and "was buried in the water", however, other written journals indicate his men became mutinous and threw him into the Mississippi River where he drowned.

The De Soto expedition finally, after building barges on the bank of the Mississippi River, began moving down stream in July 1542. A large war party of Native Americans, in canoes, attacked these foreigners and followed the expedition downstream for over a week, inflicting considerable losses in men and material to De Soto. When the remnants of De Soto's party reached the Gulf of Mexico, they were again attacked by local Native American warriors, who were expert in the use of 6 foot javelins.

Survivors of De Soto's expedition finally reached the safety of Port of Panuco on September 10, 1543. The expedition lost over 400 men and virtually everything but the clothes on their backs.

The *Mvskoke* relieved the horse from De Soto, and gained valuable experience concerning Spanish conquistadores which would benefit them 150 years later, when the *Mvskoke Confederacy* again would have to deal with imperial Spain and other European powers.

Film to portray triumphant story of a Native American boxer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Rick Schroder, first time writer/director, knew gaining support from Indian tribes was the key in telling the story of *BLACK CLOUD*. The film portrays the triumphant story of a young and spirited Native American boxer and will be released in select Oklahoma City theaters on Friday, October 1.

BLACK CLOUD is the visually moving story of a young, talented and strong-willed boxer who discovers his place within the boxing ring and world around him. Starring Eddie Spears, *BLACK CLOUD* marks the screenwriting and directorial debut of actor, Rick Schroder and marks the first feature film role for country music superstar, Tim McGraw. The film also stars Russell Means, Julia Jones, Peter Greene, Wayne Knight, Tim Sampson and boxer "Pooch" Marion Hall.

Schroder went before more than 20 tribal councils with determination in trying to spark their interest and gain their trust. After much perseverance, Schroder made a landmark step and solidified the support of multiple tribes for this project. He was invited to the Navajo Senate, normally not experienced by anyone except members of the Navajo tribe, where tribal leaders announced their desire to assist in production of the film.

BLACK CLOUD's journey to the screen began when Schroder was impressed by a story he read about a Navajo boxing coach and his son. The coach had conquered alcoholism and was now helping youngsters to overcome alcohol addiction, gang violence

and other troubles through boxing. Schroder knew he needed to gain the trust of Indian tribal councils in order to see the film through.

The character *BLACK CLOUD* carries the movie and Schroder was determined to find the perfect actor to play him.

"Eddie Spears is Black Cloud," states Schroder. "As soon as he walked in the door, I knew he was *BLACK CLOUD*. Eddie is a Lakota Sioux from South Dakota. He's tough and handsome. I don't know if there's ever been a character written or developed for an actor as perfect as this role is for Eddie Spears. It was written without knowing him."

Schroder chose Russell Means, star of *Last of the Mohicans*, to portray Bud, *BLACK CLOUD*'s coach and mentor. Means, who the Los Angeles Times called, "the most famous American Indian since Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse," brings to the role his indomitable sense of pride and leadership. Means believes *BLACK CLOUD* creates a peaceful and positive image celebrating the magic of his Indian heritage.

The film also features spectacular boxing sequences choreographed by legendary boxing choreographer Jimmy Gambina, whose work on such films as *The Champ*, *Rocky* and *Raging Bull* brought accolades from the sport as the most thrilling and realistic portrayal of the sweet science.

Most recently, the film won Best Picture from the 2004 Native American Film Festival. The film also won the Audience Award for Best Picture, along with honors for its ensemble cast and a special jury prize for cinematographer Steve Gainer from the 2004 Phoenix Film Festival.

BLACK CLOUD opens in select Oklahoma City the-

aters on Friday, October 1. For more information about the movie, visit the website at www.blackcloudthemovie.com or call (405) 848-7491.



Firm contacts Tribe in hopes of a joint production of an international hip-hop festival in 2007

ALBUQUERQUE — Gordon Bronitsky, Founder and president of Bronitsky and Associates, contacted the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in hopes of producing a future Indigenous hip-hop festival to be held in 2007.

"I've been contacted by a hip-hop festival in New Zealand about bringing international Indigenous hip-hop groups to their festival in 2006, with a view towards coproducing with me a separate international Indigenous hip-hop festival there in 2007," said Bronitsky. "I'd welcome any suggestions anyone might have about Indigenous hip-hop bands."

For the last ten years, Bronitsky has been operating Bronitsky and Associates. The firm, with offices in New Mexico and Germany, specializes in international cultural marketing of traditional and contemporary art, music, dance, fashion, film/video, photography, theater, and speakers and writers. Bronitsky and Associates produced a summer of American Indian programs in Austria, featuring American Indian talent from the U.S. and Canada, including a Lakota rock band.

Over the past few years, they have begun offering their services to other native people. In 2004, they are touring Yellow Bird Indian Dancers (Apache) to Taiwan, Fernando Cellicion Traditional Zuni Dancers to Mongolia, and Kross Kulchah, an Australian Aboriginal rock band, to Russia.

The firm is presently working with Navajos and Indigenous people in New Guinea in international cultural marketing of their talent, products and tourism. Bronitsky is also producing Native Nations, Native Voices, an international Native language writers festival in 2005. He is also under serious consideration to produce an international Indigenous gospel festival in Tahl-equah.

Gordon Bronitsky, along with Bronitsky and Associates, extend their services in international cultural marketing to the Muscogee Creek communities. For more information, contact Gordon Bronitsky at 3715 La Hacienda Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110; (505) 256-0260; or E-mail at: g.bronitsky@att.net

Garrard Play Prize awarded to Creek drama professor

ADA — Bret Jones, a drama professor at East Central University, has recently received the Garrard Play Prize Award from the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee.

The play, *Kindred*, uses Creek characters and employs some use of the Creek language and hymnal singing. "I am doing what I can to help artistically express some of our heritage," said Jones, who received his Ph.D. in Education from the University of Oklahoma.

On October 17, the Garrard Best Play Prize ceremony will be held downtown at the Roxy Theatre, 220 West Okmulgee. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be available.

For reservations or more information about the museum contact: Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Agency Hill, Honor Heights Drive Muskogee, OK 74401; (918) 683-1701; or visit the website at www.fivetribes.org.